REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, and 12 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 and 11-12 have been amended. Claims 2, 6, and 10 were previously cancelled.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0010756 (Hobbs) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,381,163 (Yokoyama) and U.S. Patent No. 5,764,227 (Ishimine). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the following arguments.

Regarding the obviousness rejection of independent claims 1, 5, and 9, these claims have been amended for clarity to recite a print setting portion for setting a first page to be printed, a last page to be printed, and the number of pages to be printed on one sheet, and a one-sheet data storage portion for storing display data for one sheet. These claims have also been amended for clarity to recite that the display control portion transfers and stores print data for more than two pages from the print data storage portion to the one-sheet data storage portion as the display data for one sheet, based on a print setting set by the print setting portion.

Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been further amended to recite that the display control portion transfers and stores the display data successively stored to the one-sheet data storage portion to the display data storage portion while offsetting the storage address for each sheet of display data, while preventing transfer of display data associated with the part of the print data corresponding to an area located behind another sheet as a result of stacking a plurality of sheets out of the print data for a plurality of pages.

The amendments are fully supported, for example, at Fig. 4, which shows a screen corresponding to the recited "a print setting portion," and at the corresponding description at

page 10, lines 25-30. The recited "one-sheet data storage portion" corresponds to the 1-sheet display buffer 30 described, for example, at page 8, lines 35-40; page 11, line 26 et seq.; and Fig. 2 of the present application.

According to the invention as recited in the amended claims, print data is transferred from the print data storage portion to the one-sheet data storage portion page by page; and display data is transferred from the one-sheet data storage portion to the display data storage portion sheet by sheet. Thus, a plurality of paginated sheets are displayed on the print preview screen. The claimed print preview apparatus is advantageous at least in that multiple sheets can be easily compared in a print preview screen to check the print layout in specific areas of the sheets; for example, to confirm the position of page numbers or the margin size. These advantages are not obtained by the methods or devices of the cited references.

While the cited references disclose displaying multiple pages on the print preview screen, each of the multiple pages is respectively printed. That is, the cited references do not disclose a technique for previewing *a plurality of paginated sheets*, as claimed. Multiple single pages are successively displayed on the print preview screen in the cited references, while multiple multiple-pages are successively displayed on the print preview screen according to the present invention (*see*, e.g., Fig. 1 of the present application). None of the cited references, either alone or in combination, describes or suggests these claimed features.

Regarding Ishimine, the Examiner contends this reference teaches preventing transferring the part of the print data corresponding to an area located behind another sheet as a result of stacking the plurality of sheets. Applicant disagrees.

Ishimine discloses three embodiments. The Examiner relies on the first embodiment. Ishimine teaches "[t]he earlier-mentioned document thickness display sequence (step S3) is

carried out in a way that is shown in FIG. 11. Generally speaking, this operation is accomplished by sequentially drawing frames of the successive pages of the document based on page information which has been updated by the above-described page turning sequences and read by the display processor 7 out of the page data table memory 6 (column 6, lines 58-65)." Ishimine further discloses "the display processor 7 reads out information about the contents of the current page from the document data storage device 4 based on the page content pointer held in the page data table memory 6, and then displays the acquired page contents inside the frame of the current page (column 7, lines 42-47)" in the first embodiment. Moreover, display examples are shown in Fig. 13.

Thus, in Ishimine's first embodiment, page contents are displayed only for a current page, while only page frames are displayed for pages other than the current page. Accordingly, a process corresponding to transferring print data is not performed except for the current page. On the other hand, in the claimed invention, except for the current page, transferring print data corresponding to an area not located behind another sheet is performed, while transferring print data corresponding to an area located behind another sheet is prevented. Thus, the claimed invention is different from Ishimine's first embodiment.

Regarding its second embodiment, Ishimine teaches "[i]n this embodiment, all pages of a document including its current page are displayed in their respective sizes and orientations, and it is made possible to show contents of each individual page if it is so requested (column 8, lines 55-58)." Ishimine further teaches "the display processor 7 reads out information about the contents of the nth page from the document data storage device 4 and displays the acquired page contents inside the frame of the nth page (step S77). The above sequence (steps S72 to S77) is executed repeatedly on all the successive pages of the document starting from its last page and,

therefore, the individual pages of the document are overlapped one on top of another (column 9, lines 36-44)."

Thus, in Ishimine's second embodiment, for all successive pages, page contents are displayed for each whole page. Specifically, page contents of an upper layer are displayed while overwriting the page contents of the lower layer. Accordingly, Ishimine does not prevent transferring part of the print data (i.e., print data corresponding to an area located behind another sheet), as claimed. The claimed invention is different from Ishimine's second embodiment, because Ishimine does not teach the claimed step of preventing the transfer of the part of the print data representing the plurality of sheets of printout corresponding to an area located behind another sheet as a result of stacking the plurality of sheets.

Thus, the Applicant's invention is not rendered obvious over the cited references, alone or in combination, because none of the cited references teaches or even suggests the display control portion of amended independent claim 1 (or the corresponding steps of independent claims 5 and 9). More specifically, the references do not disclose or suggest a display control (or step) that transfers and stores print data for more than two pages from a print data storage portion to a one-sheet data storage portion as the display data for one sheet, based on a print setting set by the print setting portion; or that transfers and stores the display data successively stored to the one-sheet data storage portion to the display data storage portion while offsetting the storage address for each sheet of display data, while preventing transfer of display data associated with the part of the print data corresponding to an area located behind another sheet as a result of stacking a plurality of sheets out of the print data for a plurality of pages.

It should be noted the claimed invention includes the concepts of "page" and "sheet", whereas the cited references include a concept of "page" *or* "sheet" but not both. In the cited

references, a one-sheet data storage portion is not required to transfer data from a print data storage portion to a display data storage portion. Therefore, the claimed invention cannot be rendered obvious by the cited references, and it would not have been obvious to modify any combination of the references to yield the inventions of the amended claims.

Consequently, amended independent claims 1, 5, and 9 are patentable, as are claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, and 12, which depend from claims 1, 5, and 9, respectively.

Accordingly, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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